



File Code: 2300-1

Date: 2005 Boating Season

## Welcome to the Four Rivers Lottery System!

It is our pleasure to offer you the 2005 float launch reservation application packet for floating Idaho's pristine rivers. Please review this packet thoroughly for changes. Some key information:

### Application Deadline and Notification:

Applications must be **received** (not postmarked) between December 1 and January 31. All applicants will be notified by mail of the results of their lottery application.

### Credit Card Payments:

Three offices accept credit card payments. To use a credit card to pay your application processing fee, you will need to submit your application and credit card payment form to the West Fork, North Fork or Middle Fork Ranger Districts.

### Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan:

The new Management Plan will be implemented starting January 1, 2005. This Management Plan is available online at: [www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc). Several items will effect changes for the Middle Fork and Main Salmon rivers as of January 1, 2005. Changes are summarized on their individual river pages.

### Recreation Fee Demonstration Program:

The Middle Fork of the Salmon and the "Wild" section of the Main Salmon River charge a boating use fee to be on the waters of these rivers. This money is used to protect natural resources, maintain facilities, and provide visitor services associated with river recreation use.

Good luck with the lottery. Perhaps we'll see you on the river next year.

Sincerely,

*/s/ David M. Campbell*

DAVID M. CAMPBELL  
District Ranger  
West Fork District

*/s/ Thomas A. Montoya*

THOMAS A. MONTOYA  
Acting District Ranger  
Middle Fork District

*/s/ Dee Hines*

F. DEE HINES  
Acting Area Ranger  
Hells Canyon National Recreation Area

*/s/ Terry Hershey*

TERRY HERSHEY  
Acting District Ranger  
North Fork District





**4 Rivers Lottery System  
Float Reservation  
Application Information  
for  
2005**

## 2005 FLOAT LAUNCH RESERVATION APPLICATION INFORMATION

### Centralized Private Float Reservation System for the

### Main Salmon, Snake, Middle Fork Salmon and Selway Rivers

Private non-commercial floaters (genuine “do-it-yourselfers”) may apply for launch reservations for the Main Salmon, Middle Fork Salmon, Selway and Snake Rivers on one application form. Participants may not be paid in any manner; they must equally share costs with other members of the group. A trip is noncommercial if there is a bona fide sharing of costs where no part of the fees are collected in excess of actual costs of the activity, for salary or financial gain in any manner for any of the group, its leaders or sponsors or for capital increase or amortization (paying off debt) of the major equipment.

A trip is commercial if any of the participants makes a profit, receives a reimbursement or salary in the form of cash, goods, or service, receives a rental for use of rafts or equipment, increases the value of equipment; or supports in any part other programs or activities from amounts received from other party members.

Application forms and information are available at the following offices October 1 - January 31 each year:

#### Snake River

Hells Canyon National Recreation Area  
2535 Riverside Dr. - *Address for UPS, FedEx only*  
P.O. Box 699, Clarkston WA 99403-0699  
(509) 758-1957 \* Fax: (509) 758-1963

#### Selway River

West Fork Ranger District  
*Address for both mail and delivery:*  
6735 West Fork Road, Darby, MT 59829-9654  
(406) 821-3269 \* Fax: (406) 821-1211

#### Main Salmon River

North Fork Ranger District  
11 Casey Road - *Address for UPS, FedEx, etc.*  
P.O. Box 180, North Fork, ID 83466-0180  
(208) 865-2725 - application requests  
Info: (208) 865-2700 \* Fax: (208)-865-2738  
\* Include your mailing address when faxing requests to us.

#### Middle Fork of the Salmon River

Middle Fork Ranger District  
Hwy. 93 N - *Address for UPS, FedEx, etc.*  
P.O. Box 750, Challis, ID 83226-0750  
(208) 879-4112-application requests  
Info: (208) 879-4101 \* Fax: (208) 879-4198

**Tollfree: 1-888-758-8037 (Available October 1 thru end of February – Snake River office)**

***Internet: [www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/) – information and application download only***

Applications will be accepted beginning December 1 through January 31. **Applications RECEIVED outside of that timeframe will be considered invalid and will not be entered into the lottery.** Please mail early, since the date **RECEIVED** determines acceptance, NOT the postmark. Applications that are faxed with credit card payment must also be received at one of the three offices listed on the credit card form by 4:30 p.m. Mountain time on January 31. Applications received after that will not be entered into the lottery.

*Boaters are advised to submit applications and any required confirmation paperwork early. It can take up to two weeks or more for mail to reach the river offices. During past seasons, many applicants were not entered into the lottery because paperwork was late. Do not depend on overnight/express mail in rural areas – submit your application early!*

Applications may be submitted on the form provided in this packet to any of the river offices. Applications may also be submitted by visiting one of the above offices. Offices are open only on weekdays. **Applications cannot be accepted at the Internet address.**

***The three offices that can accept credit cards have limited fax machines; send early to avoid busy signals. You are advised to telephone and confirm receipt of your fax, especially the number of pages and the clarity. Please note that the Middle Fork office is unable to confirm the receipt of your fax after close-of-business on January 24, as the volume of last minute faxes is too great. FAX EARLY!***

One application covers all four rivers. **Only one application**, regardless of choices, will be accepted for any one person; **duplicate applications will not be considered in the drawing.** Applications from all four offices are

entered into a single database. More than one application for any individual, regardless of river choices, will be considered duplicates; **fees paid for duplicate or voided applications will be forfeited.**

A **\$6.00** (US funds) non-refundable lottery application processing fee must accompany the application. You may send one payment for several people's applications. Do not send cash. Checks or money orders should be sent with mailed applications and made payable to USDA-Forest Service. *The West Fork, North Fork and Middle Fork offices accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express. If you would like to use a credit card to pay for the processing fee, please read the enclosed credit card payment form carefully.* This fee covers the costs of allocating launches, including processing applications, conducting the drawing, notifying lottery participants of their results, and providing successful applicants with a confirmation packet and boating permit.

With the exception of the Snake River, anyone who obtains a launch date after the lottery will be charged a **\$6.00** processing fee. Those who were not successful in the Lottery will not be charged for their first launch date. For those rivers that allow a second launch date after the first trip is run, a second processing fee may be charged.

Individuals obtaining launch dates after the lottery drawing will be asked to submit payment of the processing fee within two weeks to the office where the reservation was made. If the fee is not paid, the launch date or waiting list position will be cancelled automatically.

If checks are returned for insufficient funds the application(s) will be rejected or, if a launch has been allocated, the launch date will be cancelled. The maximum allowable charges and fees will be added to all returned checks. The check writer may also be considered a no-show if funds are not collected when due.

Application processing fees collected from previous lotteries have been used to upgrade equipment and provide notification to ALL applicants of their post-lottery results. A toll-free number is now provided for application requests and information (at the Snake River office). These features have received overwhelming approval, and will be continued. **Your** input regarding possible changes to the lottery system continues to make an impact on the program.

The successful applicant becomes the permit holder, who must accompany their group at all times while on the river. Permits are non-transferable. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the launch.

People subject to a no-show penalty will be ineligible to apply for a launch on all rivers for which the penalty was imposed. The Selway and the Snake rivers apply this penalty for a one-year period, the Middle Fork and the Main Salmon rivers have a three year penalty for no-shows and late cancellations.

### **ALLOCATION OF LAUNCH RESERVATIONS – THE DRAWING**

A computer-generated random drawing will be made in February to select successful applicants.

**ALL applicants will be notified of the lottery results by the end of February. Because of privacy concerns, lottery success information is no longer given by telephone.**

Each **successful** applicant will receive an information packet from the river for which they were drawn. The packet will describe the process for obtaining the permit and other requirements such as confirmations, payment of boating use fees, special equipment, etc. Please read this confirmation packet carefully! There will be changes on the Middle Fork and Main Salmon rivers due to the implementation of the Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan.

Once the initial drawing is complete, each river management team will operate their individual programs with respect to confirmations, cancellations, open dates, waiting lists, etc. Because of differences in management plans and the characteristics of the rivers, it is not possible to achieve total uniformity in management systems between the four rivers.

## MAIN SALMON RIVER

**All boaters floating the “Wild” section of the Main Salmon River are required to obtain a trip permit before launching at any time of the year.** The section of river covered by this system extends from Corn Creek to Long Tom Bar. Boaters floating the South Fork Salmon River and exiting onto the Main Salmon must obtain a tributary permit before floating. South Fork floaters will need to contact the Krassel Ranger District for permit information at 208-634-0616.

**New in 2005: Boating permits are now required year round.** Outside the lottery control season, the number of launches is unlimited, but a boating trip permit is required before launching. During the lottery control season, a 21-day cancellation notification is required. Failure to provide timely written cancellation will result in disqualifying the permit holder from participation in the lottery for the following three years. During the lottery control season, the size of the group determines the maximum length of stay, and tributary permits are now required for South Fork floaters, as described above.

The lottery control period for the Main Salmon extends from June 20 through September 7. During the lottery season, no more than eight (8) float boat parties (commercial plus non-commercial) are allowed to launch each day. Of the total eight (8) launches per day, the actual number of non-commercial and commercial launches will vary, but is approximately four (4) private (non-commercial) and four (4) commercial launches each day.

A boating use fee must be paid before the trip launches by everyone who participates in a Main Salmon river trip year round. If you are drawn for a Main Salmon launch date, specific information regarding payment and confirmation for the trip will be included in the "Successful Applicants" package. Similar packets are available for trips occurring prior to June 20 or after Sept. 7 from the North Fork Ranger District. Please read this information carefully!

The successful applicant becomes the permit holder, who must accompany their group at all times while on the Wild section of river. Permits are non-transferable.

Any unassigned, cancelled or unconfirmed launches will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis after the initial lottery in February and continuing throughout the lottery period. There is no waiting list. Calls will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mountain time, Monday through Friday at (208) 865-2700 or 865-2725. No collect calls will be accepted. The office is closed on Federal Holidays and weekends. Pre- and post-lottery launch permits may be requested by calling the North Fork Ranger District beginning January 1, 2005. A \$6.00 processing fee will be charged.

NO overnight camping at hot springs.

**During the lottery season, maximum trip duration varies according to party size as follows:**

<b>21-30 people</b>	<b>6 days maximum</b>
<b>11-20 people</b>	<b>7 days maximum</b>
<b>1-10 people</b>	<b>8 days maximum</b>

**Outside the lottery season, the maximum trip duration is 10 days and the maximum party size is 30.**

Portable toilets, WITHOUT PLASTIC BAGS, are required. ALL human waste will be carried out. Gel bag systems are accepted as long as they meet Type II EPA requirements.

Other required items include: Fire pan with at least 3-inch sides, ash container with a water-tight seal, a bucket, shovel and wire mesh strainer for dishwater. **Sand stakes are required.**

Be aware that there is commercial and private jet boat use in the River Corridor.

## SNAKE RIVER

**The section of river** covered by the private float lottery application reservation system extends from Hells Canyon Dam to Pittsburg Landing (Wild River). Permits are required year round and a reservation is needed during the primary season which extends from the Friday preceding Memorial Day through September 10 each year. No alternate trip leaders will be designated and reservations are non-transferable. The person holding the reservation must pick up the permit and participate in the trip. Three private (non-commercial) launches are reserved each day during the primary season in the Wild River.

**Wild River non-motorized periods** have been designated for the section between Wild Sheep Rapids and the upper landing at Kirkwood Historic Ranch. These periods are Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday beginning the first Monday in June and continuing every other week through the end of August. If the July 4th holiday falls in a non-motorized period, the non-motorized period will be the following week and every other week thereafter. A 2005 non-motorized calendar for the Wild Snake River is included in this information packet.

**Scenic launch reservations** are required for float trips launching at Pittsburg Landing and Dug Bar on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays. Two private (non-commercial) reservations are available each day. On Monday through Thursday, self-issue permits are required in the Scenic River and the number of trips are not limited.

**Entering the Snake from the Lower Salmon River** requires a BLM self-issue permit be completed at the launch of their trip.

**Confirmations** for the Lottery allocated launches for the Snake River must be received no later than close-of-business March 15, 2005.

**Cancellations, unconfirmed launches or any unassigned launches** will be allocated by telephone on a first-come, first-served basis after the initial lottery in February and continuing throughout the primary season. Calls will be accepted from 8:00 to 11:30 AM and from 12:30 to 4:00 PM, Pacific Time, on the float reservation telephone line **(509) 758-1957**. During the primary season only, the office will be open 7 days a week including Federal Holidays. No collect calls will be accepted. Only one launch will be reserved per person. Only one person will be served with each call. After using a reserved launch, an individual may apply for another launch, but only one launch may be reserved at any given time.

**A waiting list is available** if all launch dates an individual is interested in are reserved. That person's name can be placed on a waiting list for one date. When a launch date becomes available to people on the waiting list, they will be called in the order in which their names have been placed on the list. If we are unable to contact a person on the waiting list, we will drop to the next name until the date is assigned or the list exhausted. No one who has a reserved launch will be eligible for any waiting list until the reserved launch is used.

**The following information** will be asked for all persons requesting reservations after the initial allocation period: name, address, telephone number and a photo ID number.

**Maximum party size is 24 people with a maximum number of 8 float craft per party.**

**Portable toilets for solid human waste are required year-round. Portable toilets, compatible with RV dump facilities, are strongly recommended. Gel bag systems are accepted as long as they meet Type II EPA requirements.**

**Firepans with at least 3-inch sides** high enough to contain all ash and charcoal are required year round.

## MIDDLE FORK SALMON RIVER

All boaters floating the Middle Fork of the Salmon are required to obtain a trip permit before launching at any time of the year. No more than seven launches are allowed each day, which includes both private and commercial parties. Boaters floating Big Creek and exiting onto the Middle Fork of the Salmon must obtain a tributary permit before floating.

**New in 2005:** The lottery control season has been extended to include the last four days of May. Also, during the lottery control season, a 21-day cancellation notification is required. Failure to provide timely written cancellation will result in disqualifying the permit holder from participation in the lottery for the following three years. Due to new Management Plan standards, there will be NO exceptions to the 21-day cancellation policy. The size of the group determines the maximum length of stay, and tributary permits are now required for Big Creek floaters, as described below.

The lottery period extends from **May 28** through September 3. During the lottery period, there are 387 private (non-commercial) launch opportunities and 306 commercial launches assigned. Of the seven launches allowed per day, the number of private vs. commercial will vary. To see the exact number of launches available, please refer to the calendar in this packet.

Before and after the lottery period, seven launches per day are given out first-come, first-served by telephone only. These pre- and post-season launches may be requested by calling the Middle Fork Ranger District, beginning October 1 at 8:00 a.m. A \$6.00 processing fee will be charged.

Any unassigned or cancelled launches will be allocated (by telephone only) on a first-come, first-served basis after the initial lottery in February and continuing throughout the lottery period. Calls will be accepted from 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, Mountain time, Monday through Friday at (208) 879-4101. There is no waiting list. No collect calls will be accepted. The office is closed on weekends and holidays.

The successful applicant becomes the permit holder, who must accompany their group at all times while on the river. Permits are non-transferable.

A boating use fee must be paid by everyone who participates in a float trip on the Middle Fork of the Salmon before the trip launches. If you hold a Middle Fork of the Salmon launch reservation, specific information regarding payment and confirmation for the trip will be included in the confirmation package.

### **Maximum trip duration varies according to party size as follows:**

<b>21-24 people</b>	<b>6 days maximum</b>
<b>11-20 people</b>	<b>7 days maximum</b>
<b>1-10 people</b>	<b>8 days maximum</b>

Portable toilets, WITHOUT PLASTIC BAGS, are required. ALL human waste will be carried out. Gel bag systems are accepted as long as they meet Type II EPA requirements. Other required equipment: fire pans with at least 3-inch sides; water-tight ash container, bucket, small shovel and mesh strainer for dishwater.

People who apply for early season or late summer dates may need to fly into intermediate launch points. Snow often blocks access in the spring and low water may stop floaters in the upper section of river in late summer.

Boaters floating any tributary and exiting on the Middle Fork of the Salmon must have a reservation for the day they will enter the Middle Fork, and obtain a permit before floating, with the following exception. Floaters entering from Big Creek must obtain a non-commercial tributary permit from the Krassel Ranger District, 208-634-0616, but are not required to have a Middle Fork permit if they exit the Middle Fork corridor the same day they enter. Floaters on other tributaries will be required to have a valid Middle Fork permit for the day they reach the Middle Fork.

## SELWAY RIVER

The section of river covered by the private float application reservation system extends from the Paradise Launch Site to Selway Falls. Parties floating that section of river must have a reservation and trip permit during the control period. No alternate trip leaders will be designated. The person holding the reservation must pick up the permit and participate in the trip.

The control period (regulated season) during which reservations are required extends from May 15 through July 31. Reservations and permits are not required outside of the control period for private non-commercial floaters.

One private launch opportunity is reserved each day for 62 days of the control period. The remaining 16 days are reserved for commercial outfitters with one launch per day.

Lottery allocated launches for the Selway River require a written confirmation be received by close-of-business March 15.

Any unassigned, cancelled or unconfirmed launches will be allocated (by telephone only) on a first-come, first-served basis after the initial lottery in February and continuing throughout the control period. There is no waiting list. Calls will be accepted from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Mountain time, Monday through Friday at (406) 821-3269. No collect calls will be accepted. The office will be closed on Federal Holidays and weekends.

Maximum party size is 16 people.

People who apply for May launch dates may find snow blocking their access. Those with late launch dates may encounter low flows.

There are inherent risks associated with backcountry and river recreation. Many natural hazards exist and conditions can change at any time, such as high and low water, named and un-named rapids, sudden weather changes, blocked river channels, falling rocks and trees, fire, wildlife plants insects, avalanches, land slides, blowouts, cliffs, large boulders, jagged rocks, water currents and temperature, ledge hydraulics, holes, eddies, whirlpools, strainers, exposed or submerged undercut rocks, boulder sieves, standing waves, etc. Considering these and other factors, it is the responsibility of the boating party to exercise good judgment involving decisions to launch, and decisions regarding daily activities once on the river.

### **Do NOT apply for these Selway Outfitter/Guide launch dates listed below:**

June 10, 18, 21, 23, 26, 28, 29.

July 1, 5, 7, 9, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20.

*See calendar provided.*